

## IN THE CLAIMS

1           1. (Currently Amended) An inflatable hose system comprising first and second  
2 hose lengths ~~adapted to be~~ each having opposed ends comprising a first flattened and sealed  
3 end and a second end provided with one part of a two part coupling, such that the two hose  
4 lengths may be detachably coupled together, ~~and end-sealed thus to be inflatable, and~~  
5 including with or without the interposition of one or more additional lengths of standard  
6 hose to form an airtight continuous hose for use as a rigid floatable boom, and an inflation  
7 valve connected to at least one of the first and second hose lengths thus to enable inflation of  
8 said airtight continuous hose.

1           2. (Canceled)

1           3. (Previously Presented) An inflatable hose system according to Claim 1, wherein  
2 the inflation valve is mounted in the wall of one of the hose lengths.

1           4. (Currently Amended) An inflatable hose system according to Claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1,  
2 wherein ~~the or~~ each flattened and sealed end includes a superimposed rigid plate and  
3 includes means for attachment thereto of a line or shackle.

1           5. (Currently Amended) An inflatable hose system according to Claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1,  
2 wherein the or each flattened end is sealed with a bonding agent and is vulcanised, with a  
3 pair of opposed plates bolted together through the flattened and vulcanised hose end.

1           6. (Currently Amended) An inflatable hose system according to Claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1,  
2 wherein the or each coupling part includes a valve to enable the associated hose length to be

3 sealed after inflation.

1 7. (Currently Amended) An inflatable hose system according to Claim [[3]] 1,  
2 wherein the inflation valve comprises an inner sleeve and an outer sleeve threadedly  
3 connected together, the inner sleeve having a spigot which passes through an aperture in the  
4 hose wall, and a clamping washer being interposed between the inner and outer sleeves and  
5 having annular protrusions which serve to trap the wall of the hose between the inner and  
6 outer sleeves.

1 8. (Currently Amended) An inflatable hose system according to Claim 7, including  
2 an elbow connector threadedly engaged within [[the]] a bore of the inner sleeve and  
3 including a one-way pressure relief valve.

1 9. (Canceled)

1 10. (Currently Amended) An inflatable hose system according to claim 1, including  
2 an inflation unit comprising a pressure regulator, a pressure relief valve and selectable valve  
3 means to permit deflation of ~~the hose system~~ said airtight continuous hose.

1 11. (Currently Amended) An inflation unit according to Claim [[9]] 10, wherein  
2 the pressure regulator is adapted to inflate the hose system to a pressure in the range 2 to  
3 3.5 bar.

1 12. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a rigid floatable boom  
2 comprising the steps of providing an inflatable hose system comprising first and second hose

3 lengths each having ~~one end sealed~~ opposed ends comprising a first flattened and sealed end  
4 and a second end provided with one part of a two-part coupling, detachably coupling ~~[[the]]~~  
5 said hose lengths together, with or without the interposition of one ore more additional  
6 lengths of standard hose, to form an airtight continuous hose and inflating ~~the coupled said~~  
7 airtight continuous hose lengths ~~to a pressure sufficient for them to become rigid such that~~  
8 ~~they may be pushed from one end across the surface of water without submerging through~~  
9 an inflation valve connected to at least one of the first and second hose lengths to form said  
10 rigid floatable boom.

1 13. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 12, wherein the sealed end  
2 of at least one of the hose lengths is flattened to become chisel-shaped whereby the hose will  
3 ride across the surface of ~~[[the]]~~ a body of water easily and rapidly without submerging.

1 14. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 12, including the step of  
2 interposing one or more further lengths of ~~open-ended~~ standard hose between the first and  
3 second hose lengths thus to extend the length of the ~~system~~ airtight continuous hose.

1 15. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 14, wherein one or each of  
2 said coupling parts includes a valve to enable the associated hose length to be sealed and to  
3 thus to enable the attachment of the or each further length of standard hose ~~is attached to~~  
4 ~~one of the first and second~~ to the hose lengths length associated with the said valve after  
5 inflation thereof.

1 16. (Canceled)

1 17. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 12, wherein the coupled  
2 hose lengths are inflated to a pressure in the range of 2 to 3.5 bar.